

**Minnehaha Conservation District
July 14th, 2025, Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board Meeting at 3:00 pm**

Heber called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Supervisors present: Travis Entenman, Gordon Heber, and Allen Severtson

Supervisors absent: Rick Bonander and Jim Pfeifer

Advisors present: Kathleen Mackeprang

Advisors absent: Brian Top

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Alina Krone-Hedman, Dan Wehmeyer, and Jaelynn Dreckman

Agenda: MSP to approve by Severtson and Entenman. All ayes.

Minutes of June 9th meeting: MSP to approve by Entenman and Severtson. All ayes.

Treasurer's report: Reviewed at meeting. MSP to approve by Severtson and Entenman. All ayes.

Bills: Reviewed at meeting. MSP to approve and pay bills by Entenman and Severtson. All ayes.

NRCS activity report by Dan Wehmeyer:

WETLANDS: 33 certified wetland determination requests in process. 32 HEL requests in process. 4 FSA-569-potential violations in process.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP): 15 offers for continuous CRP were accepted.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTWP): Sign up deadline is October 3rd.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP): Sign up deadline is October 3rd.

Big Sioux River Project Report by Jaelynn Dreckman:

SRAM & RAM: 2 potential SRAM projects. 1 RAM project needs to be completed in Moody County yet.

EQIP/RCPP: No update

OTHER RELATED ITEMS: Dreckman has been working on ideas and planning the booth for Downtown Riverfest on September 20th. Booth at Ag Appreciation Day on August 6th. Working on a pipeline and 2 pasture tanks in Moody County and pipeline and 2 pasture tanks in Brookings County. Working on final report for Segment 4.

MSP to approve and sign checks for two SRAM contracts in Minnehaha County totaling \$70,176.25 by Severtson and Entenman. All ayes.

Urban Educator Report by Alina Krone-Hedman:

OUTREACH: 5th Annual SDSU Extension Specialty Crop Field Day in Brookings from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Plan to have table with NRCS. **Party on the Prairie** – August 27th at Good Earth State Park. **Riverfest** – September 20th at Cherapa Place from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Possible booth in collaboration with other conservation groups.

CITY PARTNERSHIP: Prairie and Pollinator Program – actively selling kits. **Demonstration Gardens** – continuing revitalization work. **Community Garden and Education Demonstration Area** – continued maintenance work.

GRANTS/FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS: SDACD Locally Led – looking into future meetings with other districts. **NACD Technical Assistance Grant** – continuing work on outreach events.

OTHER: Soil Health Coalition – continuing work on Gevik site improvements. **Conversations & Conservation** – emails sent for July 31st at A Homestead Brew at 5:30 p.m. **Audubon Society** – looking for outreach assistance in Jamestown on August 11-12 and 18-19. Looking to either attend August 11-12 or send educational items to assist both camps. **NACD Northern Plains Regional Meeting** – on June 23-25 in Brookings. Various sessions and tours. **NACD Summer Meeting** – July 25-29 (Main event on July 27-29) in Milwaukee, WI. Various meetings and tours. **SDACDE Fundraiser** – Multiple opportunities. Talk to Parker or Krone-Hedman for tickets.

Public Comment Time – 15 minutes – Parker mentioned the Herbaceous Training Session on native grass seeding identification and drill operation that was held on July 10th. Also, the Hefty Field Day will be held on July 31st. **Krone-Hedman** mentioned the Area Meeting held at Good Earth State Park on June 18th with good attendance. Discussion was held about talking to legislators and the Semi quincennial Conservation Awards. The Leopold Award will be presented on August 11th at Mud Butte, SD. **Wehmeyer** mentioned the three grazing schools being presented by the NRCS this year.

Update from Supervisors – Entenman attended the American Grasslands Conference in Kearney, NE. He is on the planning group for the Party for the Prairie event to be held at Good Earth State Park on August 27th from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. **Severtson** mentioned that the horse mowing team will be in action at the Beaver Creek Nature Center on July 16th at 5:30 p.m. He will be attending the Granite Threshing Bee on July 19-20 with his braider.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Service Report (bio-solids, tree planting, grass planting, Gevik Site)

Bio-solids: On hold until fall harvest. **Trees:** Planting and fabric completed. Some tree tubes to install. **Grass:** CRP and non-program seeding done. 30-40 acres left for August. **Gevik Site:** Working with Soil Health Coalition on interpretive signs. Doing some spraying and mowing.

2. Fall Convention – September 21-23, Huron

Vermillion-Big Sioux Area is the host this year. Entenman will speak at the event.

3. Research Farm Field Day and Focus Group Event – July 9, Brookings

Heber presented a slide show for the event. Two new people mover wagons were used, as well as shade areas and benches for presentations on this 144-acre plot. Bees and insects were the topic of much of the research. There are 150 types of bees in South Dakota.

4. NACD Grant – First Payment Received

This is the technical assistant grant that funds two positions in Urban Conservation, currently Krone-Hedman and Bonnett.

NEW BUSINESS

1. NACD National Convention – San Antonio, TX – February 14-18, 2026

Parker may attend.

2. FSA County Committee Elections – Ryan Leners, CED

Leners spoke about the open position that is available on the FSA County Committee in the LAA (Local Administration Area) #1 in Minnehaha County. This is for a three-year term in the western part of the county. Eligible people must participate or cooperate in the FSA program, live in the LAA and complete an application form. Committee members receive mileage and federal grade 7 pay. The deadline for applications is August 1st.

Executive Session (if needed) - None

CONSERVATION PLAN SIGNING - The board approved signing of conservation agreements. Heber signed conservation agreements.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS – The board reviewed the Burkman Mitigation Bank plans for a site near Brandon. MSP to approve the plan by Severtson and Entenman. All ayes. MSP for Parker to check with banks on rates for CD renewals by Entenman and Severtson. All Ayes.

MSP to adjourn at 4:24 p.m. by Severtson and Entenman. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: August 11, 2025, at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center

Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Recording Secretary